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EXAMINER

IRSHADULLAH, M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3623

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SW

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/122,293

Applicant(s)

SAKAYORI ET AL

Examiner

M. Irshadullah

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 April 2003 and 26 June 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17,21-25 and 29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-17,21-25 and 29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 29.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to correspondence filed April 11 and June 26, 2003.

Summary Of Instant Office Action

2. Applicant's arguments regarding claims 1, 2, 4-12, 21-25 and 29 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102, and claim 3 and 13-17 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103, Paper No. 26, Office Action mailed January 13, 2003 have been fully considered and are responded in Office Action set out below.

3. Claims 18, 19, 26 and 27 are cancelled as requested.

4. Amendments to claims 1, 9, 11-13, 16, 21-24 and 29 have been entered.

Election/Restrictions

5. This application contains claims 20, 28 and 30-36 drawn to an invention nonelected with traverse in Paper No. 23, and are withdrawn in Applicant's response filed June 26, 2003. A complete reply to this final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 21-25 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cornett et al (US Patent 5,216,612).

Cornett et al disclose:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended): A parts ordering system having a first domain (Fig. 1 (3, 9)), a second domain (Fig. 1 (5 with 7, 6 with 8 and 13 in 10)) and a third domain (Col. 15, lines 52-56, wherein "order releasing to the supplier" and "vendor's required lead time to ship the part" implicitly infer the existence of and communication with a supplier or vendor) connected in a tree structure (Col. 16, lines 1-12, wherein reference's "hierarchical" function would facilitate reference network system's configuring in hierarchical or tree model or structure), each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line (Fig. 1 clearly shows that each cited component or domain is a claimed "unit of processing in system 1 and the whole system 1 is an integrated system including manufacturing system 10-col. 8, lines 6-10), wherein said second domain includes:

a) receiving means for receiving an order from the first domain (Fig. 1 (3 communicating with 6), col. 9, lines 45-48 and 56-64, wherein "subsystem 6 generating

Art Unit: 3623

parts order based on {or communicated by} maintenance schedule generating subsystem 3" inferring availability of order "receiving means", such as monitor etc. as indicated by "each subsystem 3, 4, 5, 6 running on separate computer-lines 62-63");

b) judging means for judging a kind of the order (Col. 9, lines 36-54, wherein "spare parts ordering based on an accurate list of parts-lines 46-48" inferring the provision of a "determining or judging" function, and "ordering generic or non-generic parts-lines 48-54" indicates "order relating to type or kind of parts; i.e. type or kind of order");

c) machining panning means for devising a machining plan based upon the judged order (Col. 17, lines 40-49, "creating production plan-lines 42-43" inferring availability of production or machining planning means, and the plan would relate to above discussed determination or judgment)

d) expansion means for expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan (Figs.10A-10D (PF13-Explode Bill" with no images), col. 22, line 14 through col. 23, line 11, wherein "explode bill", wherein "explode bill" pointing to "expansion means", and said exploding or expansion would conform or correspond to above discussed production or machining plan or planning);

e) order planning means for devising an ordering plan for each expanded component part (Col. 31, lines 36-39, wherein "scheduling replenishment orders" inferring availability of "order scheduling planning means" which would create or devise claimed ordering plan for above discussed exploded or expanded part (s));

Art Unit: 3623

f) ordering means for ordering in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan (Col. 15, lines 19-20 and 56-59, wherein "subsystem 6" is ordering means and "total amount to be ordered for each spare part" inferring system's capability to order claimed individual part in requisite quantity or units); and

g) communication means for communicating, to the third domain orders in individual parts units (Col. 1, lines 44-61, wherein "communication among computers" points to system's providing transmission or communication resource or means and employing said resource or means would cause the above discussed part orders to transmit or communicate to above discussed vendor-line 55 or third domain).

Claim 2. The system according to claim 1, wherein said first domain, second domain and third domain have means f or issuing an order (**Col. 15, lines 52-53**), means for receiving an order (**Col. 15, lines 19-20 read with col. 33, lines 28-30, 32-34**), means for devising a machining plan based upon the order received (**Figs. 8A-8D-Header**), means for performing expansion into each component part (**Fig. 1 (5 with 7) and Figs. 10A-10D, PF13**), in accordance with the machining plan (**It would follow earlier discussed machining plan or planning**), means for devising an ordering plan for a part that has been expanded into its component parts (**Fig. 7 (42), col. 18, lines 21-22 and col. 25, line 26**), means for ordering a part expanded into individual parts units based upon the ordering plan (**As above**), means for reading data from a database in accordance with the order for the part (**Fig. 7 (42)**), and means for writing the read data to the database (**Col. 21, line 39 recited with col. 25, line 26**);

wherein a plurality of connections are made possible on a network in a tree structure (**Col. 9, lines 61-62, col. 1, lines 50-51, 57-61, col. 9, lines 13-14.**

Reference's hierarchical structure would be used for claimed purpose (Fig. 1 (5 with 7))).

Claim 4. The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for devising a machining plan has means for comparing a designated delivery date of a received order and planned production date retained in a database, and means for scheduling an expected production date based upon results of the comparison (Fig. 7 (4) and Fig. 6 (29, 37). It needs be mentioned that various means are included/had, such as comparing, into different other means, like in planning means).

Claim 5. The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for performing expansion into each component part includes:

means for performing expansion in units of individual parts for constructing a manufactured product based upon a received order (Figs, 10A-10D, PF13); and

means for calculating an amount of parts (Fig. 30 (262), col. 31, lines 24-25.

Reference's calculating means would be used for claimed purpose).

Claim 6. The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for devising an ordering plan has means for comparing an amount of parts contained in inventory and an amount of parts required (**As in applicant's claim 4 abov**), and means for

Art Unit: 3623

calculating minimum units of an order (**Fig. 30 (262), col. 31, lines 24-25. Reference's calculating means would be used for claimed purpose**) based upon results of the comparison (**It would relate to above discussed results of comparing**).

Claim 7. The system according to claim 1, wherein said first domain, which corresponds to an ordering starting point, has means for issuing an order in accordance with an order input (**Fig. 1 (3), being a computer, 3 has to have the claimed feature**), and said third domain, which corresponds to an ordering end point, has means for receiving an order in response to the issuance of the order (**Fig. 1 (6, 8), being a computer, 6 has to have an order receiving means, such as monitor, memory etc.**).

Claim 8. The system according to claim 1, wherein said first, second and third domains are connected in a tree structure, and an order for each component part processed by said first domain is communicated to the third domain without processing being duplicated by the expansion means of said second domain (Fig. 1 (3,5, 6). It needs be mentioned that user sends the order to 3 which would communicate/transmit it to 6 directly).

Claim 9. (Previously Amended) A parts ordering system in which a domain on a first network and a domain on a second network are connected via a public line, wherein the domain on said second network includes:

a) means for receiving an order from the domain on said first network (See discussion of applicant's claim 1a) and 1g) above, wherein cited "communication with computers" in 1g) indicating system's "network" capability and any of the network would act as "network1 or first network");

b) means for judging a kind of the order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1b) above);

c) means for devising a machining plan based upon the judged order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1c) above);

d) means for expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan (See discussion of applicant's claim 1d) above);

e) means for devising an ordering plan for each expanded component part (See discussion of applicant's claim 1e) above); and

f) means for ordering in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan (See discussion of applicant's claim 1f) above).

Claim 10. (Original) The system according to claim 9, wherein the domain on a third network connected to the domain on the second network via a LAN receives an order, which is issued by the domain on said first network, via a public line, the domain on said second network and said LAN (Fig. 1, col. 9, lines 61-64, col. 10, lines 8-10. Reference's connections between/among separate computers would include LAN configuration using phone/public line and as discussed above cited "communication with

Art Unit: 3623

computers" in 1g) indicating system's "network" capability and any of the network would act as "network2 or second network").

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) A parts ordering system having a database which stores an amount of specific parts contained in inventory, as well as a first domain, second domain and third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain is a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit in a production line, wherein said second domain includes:

a) receiving means for receiving an order from the first domain (See discussion of applicant's claim 1a) above);

b) judging means for judging a kind of the order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1b) above);

c) machining planning means for devising a machining plan based upon the judged order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1c) above);

d) means for expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan (See discussion of applicant's claim 1d) above);

e) order planning means for devising an ordering plan for each expanded component part (See discussion of applicant's claim 1e) above);

f) ordering means for ordering in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan (See discussion of applicant's claim 1f) above);

g) communication means for communicating, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units (See discussion of applicant's claim 1g) above); and

h) stopping means for comparing the amount of specific parts contained in inventory stored in the database and a required amount of specific parts obtained by expansion performed said means for expanding, and stopping the communication of an order to the third domain in a case where the amount of specific parts contained in inventory is greater by a prescribed amount than the required amount of specific parts (Fig. 27 (224, 244), col. 29, lines 3-4 and 21-24, wherein "suspending a deleted part from a parts list" indeed inferring to preventing or stopping the deleted part to be included in the parts list as indicated by "the old items on the parts list coded (DEL) is removed from the parts list-lines 9-10. Similarly, "suspending a request" clearly pointing to preventing or stopping a request from being fulfilled, "The request" is recited in lines 53-55: "The changes to automated parts model are performed when parts are issued to maintenance request". Said "suspending" function would function for preventing or stopping transmission or communication of an order to above discussed vender or third domain when necessitated by some circumstances including the claimed one).

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A parts ordering system in which a first domain is internally provided with a database in which an amount of specific parts contained in inventory has been stored, wherein said first domain includes:

a) receiving means for receiving an order from a second domain (See discussion of applicant's claim 1a) above, with switching first domain to second);

b) judging means for judging a kind of the order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1b) above);

c) machining planning means for devising a machining plan based upon the judged order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1c) above);

d) means for expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan (See discussion of applicant's claim 1d) above);

e) order planning means for devising an ordering plan for each expanded component part (See discussion of applicant's claim 1e) above);

f) ordering means for ordering in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan (See discussion of applicant's claim 1f) above);

g) communication means for communicating, to the third domain, the orders in individual parts units (See discussion of applicant's claim 1g) above); and

h) stopping means for comparing the amount of specific parts contained in inventory stored in the database within the first domain and a required amount of specific parts obtained by expansion performed by said means for expanding, and stopping the communication of an order to the third domain in a case where the amount of specific parts contained in inventory is greater by a prescribed amount than the required amount of specific parts (See discussion of applicant's claim 11h) above. "Suspending" function discussed in claim 11h) would function to prevent or stopping "comparison" and "transmission or communication" for any requisite purpose including the claimed ones).

i) wherein each domain is a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line (Fig. 1 clearly shows that each cited component or domain is a claimed "unit of processing in system 1 and the whole system 1 is an integrated system including manufacturing system 10-col. 8, lines 6-10).

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A parts ordering method whereby a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, deliver and receive orders, comprising:

a) a receiving step at which the second domain receives an order from the first domain (See discussion of applicant's claim 1a) above);

b) a judging step at which the second domain judges a kind of the order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1b) above);

c) a machining planning step at which the second domain devises a machining plan based upon the judged order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1c) above);

d) an expanding step at which the second domain expands, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan (See discussion of applicant's claim 1d) above);

e) a order planning step at which the second domain devises an ordering plan for each expanded component part (See discussion of applicant's claim 1e) above);

Art Unit: 3623

f) an ordering step at which the second domain orders in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan (See discussion of applicant's claim 1f) above);
and

g) a communication step at which the second domain communicates, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units (See discussion of applicant's claim 1g) above).

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) A parts ordering method whereby a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure deliver and receive orders via a database which stores an amount of specific parts contained in inventory, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, the method comprising:

a) a receiving step at which the second domain receives an order from the first domain (See discussion of applicant's claim 1a) above);

b) a judging step at which the second domain judges a kind of the order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1b) above);

c) a machining planning step at which the second domain devises a machining plan based upon the judged order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1c) above);

d) an expanding step at which the second domain expands, into each component part, a plan corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan (See discussion of applicant's claim 1d) above);

e) an order planning step at which the second domain devises an ordering plan for each expanded component parts (See discussion of applicant's claim 1e) above);

Art Unit: 3623

f) an ordering step at which the second domain orders in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan;

g) a communication step at which the second domain communicates, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units (See discussion of applicant's claim 1g) above); and

h) a stopping step at which the second domain compares the amount of specific parts contained in inventory stored in the database and a required amount of specific parts obtained by expansion performed at the expanding step, and stops the communication of an order to the third domain in a case where the amount of specific parts contained in inventory is greater, by a prescribed amount, than the required amount of specific parts (See discussion of applicant's claim 11h) above).

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) A parts ordering method whereby a first domain, which is internally provided with database in which an amount of specific parts contained in inventory has been stored, accepts an order from a second domain and communicates the order to a third domain, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, the method comprising:

a) a receiving step at which the first domain receives an order from the second domain (See discussion of applicant's claim 1a) above with switching first domain to second);

b) a judging step at which the first domain judges a kind of the order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1b) above);

c) a machining planning step at which the first domain devises a machining plan based upon the judged order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1c) above);

d) an expanding step at which the first domain performs expansion, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan (See discussion of applicant's claim 1d) above);

e) a order planning step at which the first domain devises an ordering plan for each expanded component part (See discussion of applicant's claim 1e) above);

f) an ordering step at which the first domain orders in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan (See discussion of applicant's claim 1f) above);

g) a communication step at which the first domain communicates to the third domain, orders in individual parts units (See discussion of applicant's claim 1g) above);
and

h) a stopping step in which the first domain compares the amount of specific parts contained in inventory stored in the database within the first domain and a required number of specific parts obtained by expansion performed at the expanding step, and stops the communication of art order to the third domain in a case where the amount of specific parts contained in inventory is greater by a prescribed amount than the required amount of specific parts (See discussion of applicant's claim 11h) above).

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) A parts management system having a database which stores an amount of specific parts contained in inventory, as well as a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, wherein said second domain includes:

a) a receiving means for receiving an order from the first domain (See discussion of applicant's claim 1a) above);

b) a judging means for judging a kind of the order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1b) above);

c) machining planning means for devising a machining plan based upon the judged order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1c) above);

d) means for expanding, info each component Bart, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan (See discussion of applicant's claim 1d) above);

e) a order panning means for devising an ordering plan for each expanded component part (See discussion of applicant's claim 1e) above);

f) an ordering means for ordering in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan (See discussion of applicant's claim 1f) above); and

g) communication means for communicating, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units (See discussion of applicant's claim 1g) above);

h) said second domain having input means for inputting to the database, information relating to a part delivered in accordance with an order (Read in light of col.

Art Unit: 3623

9, lines 61-64 and col. 10, lines 8-9, subsystems 5, 6 etc. computers would have some kind of keyboard, mouse, display (I/O devices or means) for performing their functions including entering part(s) received or delivered {which is implicitly implied, since when reference's subsystem orders parts-col. 15, lines 19-20, in response to which the parts have to be received or delivered}, said receipt of parts was related to the above discussed order).

Claim 25. (Original) The system according to claim 24, wherein the system is constituted by a single domain having order issuing means (**Col. 15, lines 19-20**), order receiving means, machining planning means (**Col. 15, lines 19-20 read with col. 33, lines 28-30, 323-34**), constructional expansion means (**Fig. 1 (11) and 15A-15N**), ordering planning means (**Fig. 1 (1), Figs, 8A-8D, headings**) and ordering means (as above), an interface for making possible interconnection of domains in a tree structure (**Col. 9, lines 61-64**), and input means inputting, to a database, information relating to a part delivered in accordance with the order (**Col. 15, lines 19-20 and col. 33, lines 28-30, 32-34**).

Claim 29. (Previously Amended): A computer readable recording medium on which has been recorded a program by which the following means are implemented by a computer:

a) means for issuing an order (Col. 15, lines 52-53, wherein "releasing order to supplier" inferring availability of "releasing or issuing" means);

Art Unit: 3623

- b) means for receiving the order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1a) above);
- c) means for judging a kind of the received order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1b) above);
- d) means for devising a machining plan based upon the judged order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1c) above);
- e) means for expanding, into each component part, in accordance with the machining plan (See discussion of applicant's claim 1d) above);
- f) means for devising an ordering plan for a part that has been expanded into each component part (See discussion of applicant's claim 1e) above);
- g) means for ordering a part expanded into each component part corresponding to the ordering plan (See discussion of applicant's claim 1f) above);
- h) means for reading data from a database in accordance with the order for the part (Fig. 7A (42)); and
- i) means for writing the read data to the database (Col. 21, line 26 recited with col. 25, line 39).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3623

9. Claims 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cornett et al (US Patent 5,216,612).

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A parts ordering system having a first domain and a second domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, wherein said second domain includes:

a) receiving means for receiving an order from the first domain (See discussion of applicant's claim 1a) above);

b) judging means for judging a kind of the order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1b) above);

c) machining planning means for devising a machining plan based upon the judged order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1c) above);

d) means for expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan (See discussion of applicant's claim 1d) above);

e) order planning means for devising an ordering plan for each expanded component part (See discussion of applicant's claim 1e) above);

f) ordering means for ordering in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan (See discussion of applicant's claim 1f) above); and

Art Unit: 3623

In the following element:

h) first control means which controls reference permission for referring, from an operating terminal connected to said second domain, to status of order receiving issuance in individual parts units expanded by said means for expanding.

Cornett et al teach:

1) operating terminal connected to said second domain (Fig. 1 (2 in 1) connected to subsystems 3, 5, 6 and 13 in 10, col. 8, lines 7-8, 30-31 and 52-60, wherein system 1, being computer-col. 10, lines 1-7, is "operating computer or terminal" with connections to above cited subsystems, 2 is "control or first control means" and 5 with 7, 6 with 8 and 13 in 10 functioning as second component or domain),

2) means for expending (Figs. 10A-10D (PF13), col. 22, line 14 through col. 23, line 11, wherein "exploding bill- col. 22, line 53" inferring availability of exploding or expending means),

Cornett et al do not teach:

control means controlling reference permission from a terminal connected to a domain.

The feature is a well known practice in the computer network art, for instance, Examiner logging on from his terminal to his networked computer system (domain), he is asked to enter his ID and Password; in other words, Examiner's computer system controlling the permission for his terminal connected to the system computer (domain).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the relevant art at the time of Applicant's invention to advantageously use the available technique, because it would

Art Unit: 3623

effectively be beneficial in terms of money and time which would otherwise be needed for R&D.

Claim 14. The system according to claim 13, wherein said first control means permits reference to order data, machining plan data and sub-part inventory data of said first domain and limits reference to data required by said second domain (Fig. 1 (2) having subsystems 3, 5, 6, 11, 113 wherein 3 refers to 6, 11 and 13 for claimed limitations).

Claim 15. The system according to claim 14, wherein said first control means gives reference permission based upon a, combination of a domain number and password (Using System 1 having controller 2, and parts manual file 6: col. 15, line 61-62. It needs be mentioned that reference's complex number referring function would be used for claimed purpose. For additional confidentiality's sake use of password would be implemented, the use of which is notoriously practiced).

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A parts ordering system having a first domain and a second domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, wherein said second domain includes:

a) receiving means for receiving an order from the first domain (See discussion of applicant's claim 1a) above);

b) judging means for judging a kind of the order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1b) above);

c) machining planning means for devising a machining plan based upon the judged order (See discussion of applicant's claim 1c) above);

d) means for expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan (See discussion of applicant's claim 1d) above);

e) order planning means for devising an ordering plan for each expanded component part (See discussion of applicant's claim 1e) above);

f) means for ordering in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan (See discussion of applicant's claim 1f) above); and

g) first control means which controls permission to refer to an order for a component part expanded by said means for expanding, reference being made from art operating terminal connected to the second domain (See discussion of applicant's claim 13g) above), and second control means, for controlling permission to refer to ordering information, within the first domain, related to an order issued to the second domain (Cornet et al: Fig. 1 (11 having 12, 13 which cooperate with 4 and 3; 3 and 4 cooperating with 7 in 5 and 8 in 6, col. 8, lines 62-64, col. 9, lines 23-41 (specifically lines 23-24: "The parts manual file 7 enables the maintenance subsystem 3 to tie together"; lines 29-31: "The parts manual system 5 also interfaces with the engineering change control subsystem 4" and lines 36-41: "Spares inventory management system {6} cooperates with parts manual subsystem 5 as well as engineering change control

Art Unit: 3623

system 4". In other words, controller 11 in 10 of Fig. 1, functioning as second controller. Moreover, see discussion about "controlling permission" in applicant's claim 13g) above).

Claim 17. (Original) The system according to claim 16, wherein the system is constituted by a single domain having order issuing means, order receiving means, machining planning means, constructional expansion means, ordering planning means and ordering means, an interface for making possible interconnection of domains in a tree structure, and input means, inputting, to a database, information relating to a part delivered in accordance with the order (Fig. 1 (1), col. 8, lines 3-11, 30-37, 52-61 and discussion about various claimed limitations here in applicant's claims above).

10. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cornett et al (US Patent 5,216,612) in view of Wagner (US Patent 4,980,826).

In the following claim:

Claim 3. The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for receiving an order has means for making a comparison with data, which has been retained in a database to determine whether an order is a new order, a modified order or retransmission of the same order.

Cornett et al teach:

means for making a comparison with data, which has been retained in a database (Col. 13, lines 30-34 (specifically lines 31, 33), Fig. 6 (29, 37), col. 16, line 65,

Art Unit: 3623

wherein cited "comparing" of data in "master production schedule file" pointing to "comparison means" and "data contained or retained in a database")),

Cornett et al do not teach:

to determine whether an order is a new order, a modified order or retransmission of the same order.

However, Wagner teaches the same (Col. 14, lines 15-17).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the relevant art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate Wagner's feature in Cornett et al's invention, because it would facilitate to advantageously use the prevalent procedure or function, thereby resulting into a system with expanded functionality and extended utility.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments filed April 11, 2003 have been fully considered, and in view of latest amendments filed June 26, 2003, instant Office Action is set out above. Applicant in April 11, 2003 Remarks argues that:

a) Cornett et al's do not teach Applicant's invention (Remarks April 11, 2003: Page 2, A. Claims 1 and 21, para 2, line 1 through page 3, para last but one. In this regard, Applicant will appreciably realize that reference's System 1 is a system for managing the maintenance relating to the manufacturing (production or factory line) system, comprising Maintenance operations, Fig. 1 (2) and Manufacturing (production) operations, Fig. 1 (10). The two components work together as one (Col. 9, line 67 through col. 10, line 5). In this configuration functions of subsystems (units) are indeed

Art Unit: 3623

integral to the Production (Manufacturing) system, in other words they are maintenance management, parts management and parts ordering management systems for the production (Manufacturing) complexes (14A-14N, col. 8, lines 42-46) as recited in Applicant's specification, page 1, lines 8-10: "The invention relates to a parts ordering system and parts management system for use in a factory".

Moreover, subsystems 3, 5 and 6 are in fact subsystems (domains), reference's col. 9, lines 60-64). In other words, subsystems 3, 5 and 6 are each a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line (Fig. 1 (10 having production complexes {lines} 14A-14N)).

Cornett et al, therefore, teach the Applicant's invention as claimed.

b) Cornett et al do not teach or suggest: order receiving means has a means for making a comparison with data, which has been retained in a database, to determine whether an order is a new order, a modified order or a re-transmission of same order.

In this respect, applicant is referred to Cornett et al's col. 13, lines 30-34, wherein reference teaches "determining {inferring availability of claimed determining means" run hours from master production schedule file {master production file is nothing but a storage means storing or retaining production schedule data or information}.

However, Cornett et al do not teach "whether an order is a new order, a modified order or a re-transmission of same order".

Wagner teaches the same (Col. 14, lines 15-17) and an appropriate motivation statement was provided.

c) Cornett et al do not teach: "stopping operation" in claims 11, 123, 22 and 23 (page 5, paras 1 and 2). Regarding this, applicant is referred to instant rejection of said claims, where a detailed discussion has been provided.

d) Regarding arguments on pages 6 through 8, applicant is directed to current more thorough discussion of claims 13, 16, 24, 9 and 29 in the instant Office Action.

Moreover, applicant ought to appreciably realize that it is the function or functionality to which attention be directed instead of terminology. In general applicant's arguments fail to consider the full teachings of the references in light of the knowledge generally available to those in the appropriate art and the level of ordinary skill in this art.

Thus, in the light of above discussed facts, it is stated that applicant's arguments have been fully considered and instant Office Action is set out above.

Conclusion

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

Art Unit: 3623

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Irshadullah whose telephone number is (703) 308-6683. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 11:00 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (703) 305-9643. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9326 for regular communications and (703) 872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



M. Irshadullah

August 27, 2003



TARIQ R. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600